

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2667

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2002

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. REED, and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Peace Corps Charter
5 for the 21st Century Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The Peace Corps was established in 1961 to
2 promote world peace and friendship through the
3 service of American volunteers abroad.

4 (2) The three goals codified in the Peace Corps
5 Act which have guided the Peace Corps and its vol-
6 unteers over the years, can work in concert to pro-
7 mote global acceptance of the principles of inter-
8 national peace and nonviolent coexistence among
9 peoples of diverse cultures and systems of govern-
10 ment.

11 (3) The Peace Corps has operated in 135 coun-
12 tries with 165,000 Peace Corps volunteers since its
13 establishment.

14 (4) The Peace Corps has sought to fulfill three
15 goals, as follows: to help people in developing nations
16 meet basic needs, to promote understanding of
17 America's values and ideals abroad, and to promote
18 an understanding of other peoples by Americans.

19 (5) After more than 40 years of operation, the
20 Peace Corps remains the world's premier inter-
21 national service organization dedicated to promoting
22 grassroots development.

23 (6) The Peace Corps remains committed to
24 sending well trained and well supported Peace Corps

1 volunteers overseas to promote world peace, friend-
2 ship, and grassroots development.

3 (7) The Peace Corps is an independent agency,
4 and therefore no Peace Corps personnel or volun-
5 teers should have any relationship with any United
6 States intelligence agency or be used to accomplish
7 any other goal than the goals established by the
8 Peace Corps Act.

9 (8) The Crisis Corps has been an effective tool
10 in harnessing the skills and talents for returned
11 Peace Corps volunteers and should be expanded to
12 utilize to the maximum extent the pool of talent
13 from the returned Peace Corps volunteer commu-
14 nity.

15 (9) The Peace Corps is currently operating with
16 an annual budget of \$275,000,000 in 70 countries
17 with 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

18 (10) There is deep misunderstanding and mis-
19 information about American values and ideals in
20 many parts of the world, particularly those with sub-
21 stantial Muslim populations, and a greater Peace
22 Corps presence in such places could foster greater
23 understanding and tolerance of those countries.

1 (11) Congress has declared that the Peace
2 Corps should be expanded to sponsor a minimum of
3 10,000 Peace Corps volunteers.

4 (12) President George W. Bush has called for
5 the doubling of the number of Peace Corps volun-
6 teers in service in a fiscal year to 15,000 volunteers
7 in service by the end of fiscal year 2007.

8 (13) Any expansion of the Peace Corps shall
9 not jeopardize the quality of the Peace Corps volun-
10 teer experience, and therefore can only be accom-
11 plished by an appropriate increase in field and head-
12 quarters support staff.

13 (14) It would be extremely useful for the Peace
14 Corps to establish an office of strategic planning to
15 evaluate existing programs and undertake long-term
16 planning in order to facilitate the orderly expansion
17 of the Peace Corps from its current size to the stat-
18 ed objective of 15,000 volunteers in the field by the
19 end of fiscal year 2007.

20 (15) The Peace Corps would benefit from the
21 advice and council of a streamlined bipartisan Na-
22 tional Peace Corps Advisory Council composed of
23 distinguished returned Peace Corps volunteers.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 3 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations
 4 of the Senate and the Committee on International
 5 Relations of the House of Representatives.

6 (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
 7 the Director of the Peace Corps.

8 (3) PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.—The term
 9 “Peace Corps volunteer” means a volunteer or a vol-
 10 unteer leader under the Peace Corps Act.

11 (4) RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER.—
 12 The term “returned Peace Corps volunteer” means
 13 a person who has been certified by the Director as
 14 having served satisfactorily as a Peace Corps volun-
 15 teer.

16 **SEC. 4. RESTATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEACE**
 17 **CORPS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2A of the Peace Corps
 19 Act (22 U.S.C. 2501–1) is amended by adding at the end
 20 the following new sentence: “As an independent agency,
 21 all recruiting of volunteers shall be undertaken solely by
 22 the Peace Corps.”.

23 (b) DETAILS AND ASSIGNMENTS.—Section 5(g) of
 24 the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(g)) is amended by
 25 inserting after “*Provided, That*” the following: “such de-

1 tail or assignment does not contradict the standing of
 2 Peace Corps volunteers as being independent from foreign
 3 policy-making and intelligence collection: *Provided further*,
 4 That”.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

6 (a) CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS CONCERNING
 7 NEW INITIATIVES.—Section 11 of the Peace Corps Act
 8 (22 U.S.C. 2510) is amended—

9 (1) by inserting “(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—” im-
 10 mediately before “The President shall transmit”;
 11 and

12 (2) by adding at the end thereof the following:

13 “(b) CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS ON NEW INITIA-
 14 TIVES.—Thirty days prior to implementing any new initia-
 15 tive, the Director shall consult with the Peace Corps Na-
 16 tional Advisory Council established in section 12 and shall
 17 submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
 18 ate and the Committee on International Relations of the
 19 House of Representatives a report describing the objec-
 20 tives that such initiative is intended to fulfill, an estimate
 21 of any costs that may be incurred as a result of the initia-
 22 tive, and an estimate of any impact on existing programs,
 23 including the impact on the safety of volunteers under this
 24 Act”.

1 (b) COUNTRY SECURITY REPORTS.—Section 11 of
2 the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2510), as amended by
3 subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(c) COUNTRY SECURITY REPORTS.—The Director
6 of the Peace Corps shall submit to the Committee on For-
7 eign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Inter-
8 national Relations of the House of Representatives a re-
9 port annually on the status of security procedures in any
10 country in which the Peace Corps operates programs or
11 is considering doing so. Each report shall include rec-
12 ommendations when appropriate as to whether security
13 conditions would be enhanced by colocating volunteers
14 with international or local nongovernmental organizations,
15 or with the placement of multiple volunteers in one loca-
16 tion.”.

17 (c) REPORT ON STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PRO-
18 GRAMS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Director of the Peace Corps shall
20 submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
21 ate and the Committee on International Relations of the
22 House of Representatives a report—

23 (1) describing the student loan forgiveness pro-
24 grams currently available to Peace Corps volunteers
25 upon completion of their service; and

1 (2) comparing such programs with other Gov-
2 ernment-sponsored student loan forgiveness pro-
3 grams.

4 **SEC. 6. SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND PLACE-**
5 **MENT FOR COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERN-**
6 **MENTS ARE SEEKING TO FOSTER GREATER**
7 **UNDERSTANDING BY AND ABOUT THEIR CITI-**
8 **ZENS.**

9 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a re-
11 port to the appropriate congressional committees describ-
12 ing the initiatives that the Peace Corps intends to pursue
13 in order to solicit requests from eligible countries where
14 the presence of Peace Corps volunteers would facilitate a
15 greater understanding that there exists a universe of com-
16 monly shared human values and aspirations and would
17 dispel unfounded fears and suspicion among peoples of di-
18 verse cultures and systems of government, including peo-
19 ples from countries with substantial Muslim populations.
20 Such report shall include—

21 (1) a description of the recruitment strategies
22 to be employed by the Peace Corps to recruit and
23 train volunteers with the appropriate language skills
24 and interest in serving in such countries; and

1 (2) a list of the countries that the Director has
2 determined should be priorities for special recruit-
3 ment and placement of Peace Corps volunteers.

4 (b) USE OF RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUN-
5 TEERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
6 Director is authorized and strongly urged to utilize the
7 services of returned Peace Corps volunteers having lan-
8 guage and cultural expertise, including those returned
9 Peace Corps volunteers who may have served previously
10 in countries with substantial Muslim populations, in order
11 to open or reopen Peace Corps programs in such coun-
12 tries.

13 (c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In addition to amounts
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Peace Corps by sec-
15 tion 11 for the fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006,
16 there is authorized to be appropriated for the Peace Corps
17 \$5,000,000 each such fiscal year solely for the recruit-
18 ment, training, and placement of Peace Corps volunteers
19 in countries whose governments are seeking to foster
20 greater understanding by and about their citizens.

21 **SEC. 7. GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES INITIATIVE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in cooperation with
23 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Na-
24 tional Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization
25 and the Pan American Health Organization, local public

1 health officials, shall develop a program of training for all
 2 Peace Corps volunteers in the areas of education, preven-
 3 tion, and treatment of infectious diseases in order to en-
 4 sure that all Peace Corps volunteers make a contribution
 5 to the global campaign against such diseases.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) AIDS.—The term “AIDS” means the ac-
 8 quired immune deficiency syndrome.

9 (2) HIV.—The term “HIV” means the human
 10 immunodeficiency virus, the pathogen that causes
 11 AIDS.

12 (3) HIV/AIDS.—The term “HIV/AIDS”
 13 means, with respect to an individual, an individual
 14 who is infected with HIV or living with AIDS.

15 (4) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The term “infec-
 16 tious diseases” means HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and
 17 malaria.

18 **SEC. 8. PEACE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

19 Section 12 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2511;
 20 relating to the Peace Corps National Advisory Council)
 21 is amended—

22 (1) by amending subsection (b)(2)(D) to read
 23 as follows:

24 “(D) make recommendations for utilizing
 25 the expertise of returned Peace Corps volun-

1 teers in fulfilling the goals of the Peace
2 Corps.”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

5 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
6 (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

7 (C) in paragraph (1) (as so redesign-
8 nated)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (I) by striking “fifteen” and in-
11 serting “seven”;

12 (II) by striking the second sen-
13 tence and inserting the following: “All
14 of the members shall be former Peace
15 Corps volunteers, and not more than
16 four shall be members of the same po-
17 litical party.”;

18 (ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to
19 read as follows:

20 “(D) The members of the Council shall be
21 appointed to 2-year terms.”;

22 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (B),
23 (E), and (H); and

24 (iv) by redesignating subparagraphs
25 (C), (D), (F), (G), and (I) as subpara-

1 graphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F), respec-
2 tively;

3 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 “(g) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one of
6 the voting members of the Council as Chair, who shall
7 serve in that capacity for a period not to exceed two
8 years.”;

9 (4) by amending subsection (h) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(h) MEETINGS.—The Council shall hold a regular
12 meeting during each calendar quarter at a date and time
13 to be determined by the Chair of the Council.”; and

14 (5) by amending subsection (i) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(i) REPORT.—Not later than July 30, 2003, and an-
17 nually thereafter, the Council shall submit a report to the
18 President and the Director of the Peace Corps describing
19 how the Council has carried out its functions under sub-
20 section (b)(2).”.

21 **SEC. 9. READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES.**

22 The Peace Corps Act is amended—

23 (1) in section 5(c) (22 U.S.C. 2504(c)), by
24 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”; and

1 (2) in section 6(1) (22 U.S.C. 2505(1)), by
2 striking “\$125” and inserting “\$275”.

3 **SEC. 10. PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF RETURNED PEACE**
4 **CORPS VOLUNTEERS TO PROMOTE THE**
5 **GOALS OF THE PEACE CORPS.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to pro-
7 vide support for returned Peace Corps volunteers to de-
8 velop programs and projects to promote the objectives of
9 the Peace Corps, as set forth in section 2 of the Peace
10 Corps Act.

11 (b) GRANTS TO CERTAIN NONPROFIT CORPORA-
12 TIONS.—

13 (1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—To carry out the pur-
14 pose of this section, and subject to the availability
15 of appropriations, the Director of the Corporation
16 for National and Community Service shall award
17 grants on a competitive basis to private nonprofit
18 corporations that are established in the District of
19 Columbia for the purpose of serving as incubators
20 for returned Peace Corps volunteers seeking to use
21 their knowledge and expertise to undertake commu-
22 nity-based projects to carry out the goals of the
23 Peace Corps Act.

24 (2) ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—To be eligible
25 to compete for grants under this section, a nonprofit

1 corporation must have a board of directors composed
2 of returned Peace Corps volunteers with a back-
3 ground in community service, education, or health.
4 The director of the corporation (who may also be a
5 board member of the nonprofit corporation) shall
6 also be a returned Peace Corps volunteer with dem-
7 onstrated management expertise in operating a non-
8 profit corporation. The stated purpose of the non-
9 profit corporation shall be to act solely as an inter-
10 mediary between the Corporation for National and
11 Community Service and individual returned Peace
12 Corps volunteers seeking funding for projects con-
13 sistent with the goals of the Peace Corps. The non-
14 profit corporation may act as the accountant for in-
15 dividual volunteers for purposes of tax filing and
16 audit responsibilities.

17 (c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—Such grants shall be
18 made pursuant to a grant agreement between the Director
19 and the nonprofit corporation that requires that—

20 (1) grant funds will only be used to support
21 programs and projects described in subsection (a)
22 pursuant to proposals submitted by returned Peace
23 Corps volunteers (either individually or cooperatively
24 with other returned volunteers);

1 (2) the nonprofit corporation give consideration
2 to funding individual projects or programs by re-
3 turned Peace Corps volunteers up to \$100,000;

4 (3) not more than 20 percent of funds made
5 available to the nonprofit corporation will be used
6 for the salaries, overhead, or other administrative
7 expenses of the nonprofit corporation; and

8 (4) the nonprofit corporation will not receive
9 grant funds under this section for more than two
10 years unless the corporation has raised private
11 funds, either in cash or in kind for up to 40 percent
12 of its annual budget.

13 (d) FUNDING.—Of the funds available to the Cor-
14 poration for National and Community Service for fiscal
15 year 2003 or any fiscal year thereafter, not to exceed
16 \$10,000,000 shall be available for each such fiscal year
17 to carry out the grant program established under this sec-
18 tion.

19 (e) STATUS OF THE FUND.—Nothing in this section
20 shall be construed to make any nonprofit corporation sup-
21 ported under this section an agency or establishment of
22 the United States Government or to make the members
23 of the board of directors or any officer or employee of such
24 corporation an officer or employee of the United States.

1 (f) FACTORS IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In deter-
 2 mining the number of private nonprofit corporations to
 3 award grants to in any fiscal years, the Director should
 4 balance the number of organizations against the overhead
 5 costs that divert resources from project funding.

6 (g) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Grant recipients
 7 under this section shall be subject to the appropriate over-
 8 sight procedures of Congress.

9 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(b)(1) of the Peace
 11 Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502(b)(1)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “2002, and” and inserting
 13 “2002,”; and

14 (2) by inserting before the period the following:
 15 “, \$465,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$500,000,000
 16 for fiscal year 2005, \$560,000,000 for fiscal year
 17 2006, and \$560,000,000 for fiscal year 2007”.

18 (b) INCREASE IN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
 19 STRENGTH.—Section 3(c) of the Peace Corps Act (22
 20 U.S.C. 2502(c)) is amended by adding the following new
 21 subsection at the end thereof:

22 “(d) In addition to the amounts authorized to be ap-
 23 propriated in this section, there are authorized to be ap-
 24 propriated such additional sums as may be necessary to
 25 achieve a volunteer corps of 15,000 as soon as practicable

- 1 taking into account the security of volunteers and the ef-
- 2 fectiveness of country programs.”.

